

Message Text

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PAGE 01 BEIRUT 04699 141504Z
ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SOE-02 AID-05 CEA-01 CIAE-00
COME-00 DODE-00 EB-08 DOE-15 H-01 INR-10 INT-05
L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 OMB-01 PM-05 ICA-11 OES-09
SP-02 SS-15 STR-07 TRSE-00 ACDA-12 /128 W
-----088344 142356Z /14

R 141407Z AUG 78
FM AMEMBASSY BEIRUT
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9224
INFO AMEMBASSY AMMAN
AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS
AMEMBASSY JIDDA
AMCONSUL DHAHRAN

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E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: ENRG, LE
SUBJECT: TAPLINE PRESSURES GOL WITH CRUDE SUSPENSION

1. TAPLINE IN A LETTER TO MININDUSTRY MICHEL DOUMIT
HAS INFORMED GOL IT WILL SUSPEND CRUDE SUPPLIES TO
TRIPOLI REFINERY UNTIL GOL PAYS TAPLINE \$36 MILLION
FOR CRUDE DELIVERED TO TRIPOLI IN MAY AND JULY.
TAPLINE DID NOT CUT OFF SUPPLIES TO MEDRECO REFINERY
IN ZAHRANI, FOR WHICH GOL OWES \$4 MILLION IN ARREARS.

2. RESPONDING TO PUBLISHED REPORTS OF SUSPENSION,
DOUMIT SAID GOL WAS SHORT OF CASH BECAUSE OF UNSEASONABLY
LOW SALES BY FUEL RETAILERS. HEAD OF EX-MOBIL
RETAIL NETWORK CONFIRMED TO EMBOFF THAT VEHICLE FUEL
SALES SINCE JULY 1 HAVE BEEN HALF THE NORMAL SUMMER
LEVELS. FIGHTING IN EAST BEIRUT AND CLOSURE DAMASCUS
HIGHWAY AT HAZMIEH HAVE IMPEDED COMMUTER TRAFFIC TO
MOUNTAIN HOMES THAT IN NORMAL YEARS PRODUCES PEAK
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PAGE 02 BEIRUT 04699 141504Z

SALES DURING SUMMER. (WE HAVE NOTICED SOMEWHAT
CLEANER AIR THIS YEAR.) STATEMENT THAT GOL IS
SHORT OF CASH IS UNTRUE, HOWEVER. LOCAL MANAGING
DIRECTOR OF TAPLINE SAW PRIME MINISTER HOSS AUGUST 11
AND RECEIVED ASSURANCES GOL WOULD PAY AS SOON AS
MINISTERIAL STAFF UNABLE TO GET TO WORK BECAUSE OF
RECENT FIGHTING RETURNED AND PROCESSED THE PAYMENT

PAPERS.

3. SUPPLY: TAPLINE HAS SUFFICIENT CRUDE IN ITS
ZAHIRANI STORAGE TANKS TO SUPPLY MEDRECO REFINERY
FOR TWO MONTHS AND TO DELIVER 100,000 TONS TO
TRIPOLI (24 DAYS' RUN). TRIPOLI HAS ADDITIONAL CRUDE
SUPPLY IN ITS OWN TANKS. NO SHORTAGE IS IMMINENT.

4. COMMENT: TAPLINE HAS UPPER HAND IN THESE SQUABBLES
AND PARTICULARLY NOW, SINCE GOL CANNOT AFFORD A FUEL
PANIC. WE FORESEE AN ORDERLY RESOLUTION OF THE PROBLEM.

DECON 12/31/79.

PARKER

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Message Attributes

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Concepts: PETROLEUM, GOVERNMENT DEBTS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 14 aug 1978
Decaption Date: 01 jan 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
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Original Previous Classification: n/a
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Review Markings:
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